

No. R-526. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Business Roundtable on its 25th anniversary.

(H.C.R.410)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Botzow of Pownal, Burditt of West Rutland, Buxton of Tunbridge, Champion of Bennington, Donahue of Northfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Ralston of Middlebury, Russell of Rutland City, Trieber of Rockingham and Young of Glover

Whereas, on November 6, 1986, 35 members of the Vermont business community formed the Vermont Business Roundtable (VBR), and former Governor Thomas Salmon was selected as the new organization's first chair, and

Whereas, on December 28, 1987, VBR conducted a press conference in Montpelier, publicly introducing the organization to the state at which former Governor Salmon described its purpose as "promoting the economic vitality of the state without sacrificing its unique environmental qualities," and

Whereas, the VBR's five founding principles all focused on Vermont's corporate citizens offering factually based and well-researched public policy options for Vermont's future that would be widely disseminated in order to reach a broad public consensus, and

Whereas, VBR established a policy center designed to meet the founding principles of the organization, and it has issued over 40 reports that are carefully researched and drafted, and

Whereas, the organization has engaged in many initiatives beyond the issuance of reports in fields such as education, government efficiency, and health care, and

Whereas, among the VBR education projects have been: the Born to Read 2000 initiative, a \$500,000.00 program that was “the first privately funded, early literacy effort in the nation to reach every newborn in a state”; Pre-K Vermont, a project to place new emphasis on improving early childhood education; and the Young Writers Project, designed to “engage students to write, help them improve, and publish their best work,” and

Whereas, in 2003, VBR participated in the Vermont Institute on Government Effectiveness, Inc., and

Whereas, a health care working group examined ways to reduce the rate of cost increases while still improving health care, and

Whereas, on June 14, 2012, VBR will hold a celebration in Burlington to mark 25 years of creative and thoughtful participation in the public policy arena, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Business Roundtable on its 25th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Business Roundtable Chair Steven P. Voigt.